

Deceased Management Advisory Group

UPDATE 1st April 2020

The members of DMAG held a video conference, including representatives of Scottish Government, on the 31st March 2020 at which the following items were discussed.

1. PPE

Scottish Government had sent an email requesting information about how much and what type of PPE is used per case. The organisations are collating this information and will reply. DMAG have chased the application for PPE from the NHS supply chain and have been informed that it is currently being assessed. Members are having huge difficulties in accessing PPE. Alternatives sources are beginning to appear. News coverage is helping to build pressure for solutions to this issue.

2. Mourners Attendance on Funerals

Scottish Government are carrying out a survey of crematoria to understand the restrictions in place at all 31 sites, and will have answers by the end of the day. It was noted that some authorities are now not allowing any attendees at the funerals of those who died with Covid-19. DMAG are revising their Guidance on this subject in light of the Government's issuing of [Guidance for care of the deceased with suspected or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

3. Green Disposal Certificates

DMAG had sought advice from the General Register Office regarding the issuing of the Green Disposal Certificate by the Registrar directly to the cemetery or crematorium. The GRO confirmed to DMAG that a Registrar could also send a copy of the Certificate to the funeral director, thus enabling them to collect deceased people from mortuaries, to for funeral plan purposes.

4. ATI Cremators

DMAG is working with the liquidators of ATI Environment (UK) Ltd to try and access essential equipment and information to help those crematoria that have ATI cremators.



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5. Ashes Storage

DMAG is developing a policy on the storage of ashes during the pandemic. It is envisaged that ashes will be retained by the crematorium, except for exceptional cases where a method of release will need to be agreed. DMAG would be interested to hear any pertinent views to help develop this policy. Please send them to your representative organisation.

6. Guidance on the Closure of Crematoria and Cemeteries

DMAG is continuing to chase for a clear answer as to whether cemeteries as well as crematoria must be closed under the requirements of the [The Health Protection \(Coronavirus, Restrictions\) \(England\) Regulations 2020](#). In Wales and Northern Ireland cemeteries must also be closed, whereas in Scotland the regulations apply only to crematoria.

7. Coffin Supply

The Chief Executive of the FFMA informed DMAG that there is no issue with coffin supply in the UK.

